

4. The method of claim 2, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from any alteration in the rumen of the ruminant.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises placing the feed directly into the abomasum of the ruminant.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein placing the feed directly into the abomasum of the ruminant comprises:
 - providing a fistula into the abomasum of the ruminant; and
 - introducing the feed into the abomasum of the ruminant via the fistula.
7. The method of claim 5 wherein placing the feed directly into the abomasum of the ruminant comprises infusing the feed into the abomasum of the ruminant without passing the feed through any other stomach portions of the ruminant.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of true protein, the weight percent of fat, the weight percent of lactose, the weight percent of total solids, or any combination of these in milk produced by the ruminant.
9. The method of claim 1 wherein the sugar alcohol is D-arabinitol, L-arabinitol, erythritol, galactitol, inositol, mannitol, perseitol, ribitol, sorbitol, xylitol, glycerol, or any combination of these.
10. A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
 - providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol; and
 - supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol effective to enhance milk component production by the ruminant.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises:

protecting the sugar alcohol from significant alteration in the rumen of the ruminant; and orally feeding the feed to the ruminant.

12. The method of claim 10 wherein supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant comprises placing the feed directly into the abomasum of the ruminant without passing the feed through any other stomach portions of the ruminant.

13. The method of claim 10 wherein the sugar alcohol is D-arabinitol, L-arabinitol, erythritol, galactitol, inositol, mannitol, perseitol, ribitol, sorbitol, xylitol, glycerol or any combination of these.

14. The method of claim 10 wherein the sugar alcohol that is supplied to the abomasum of the ruminant is effective to enhance the weight percent of true protein, the weight percent of fat, the weight percent of lactose, the weight percent of total solids, or any combination of these in milk produced by the ruminant.

15. (Amended) A method of producing feed for a ruminant, the method comprising:
combining a sugar alcohol and at least one additional component to form the feed; and protecting the sugar alcohol from significant alteration in the rumen of the ruminant.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the sugar alcohol is effective to enhance milk component production by the ruminant.

17. The method of claim 15 wherein the sugar alcohol, when supplied to the abomasum of the ruminant, is effective to enhance the weight percent of true protein, the weight percent of fat, the

weight percent of lactose, the weight percent of total solids, or any combination of these in milk produced by the ruminant.

18. The method of claim 15 wherein the sugar alcohol is D-arabinitol, L-arabinitol, erythritol, galactitol, inositol, mannitol, perseitol, ribitol, sorbitol, xylitol, glycerol or any combination of these.

19. A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed that comprises a sugar alcohol; and
supplying the feed directly to the abomasum of the ruminant

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the sugar alcohol is effective to enhance milk component production by the ruminant.

21. The method of claim 19 wherein the sugar alcohol is effective to enhance milk component production by the ruminant by enhancing the weight percent of true protein, the weight percent of fat, the weight percent of lactose, the weight percent of total solids, or any combination of these in milk produced by the ruminant.

22. The method of claim 19 wherein supplying the feed directly into the abomasum of the ruminant comprises:

providing a fistula into the abomasum of the ruminant; and
introducing the feed into the abomasum of the ruminant via the fistula.

23. The method of claim 19 wherein supplying the feed directly into the abomasum of the ruminant comprises infusing the feed into the abomasum of the ruminant without passing the feed through any other stomach portions of the ruminant.

24. The method of claim 19 wherein the sugar alcohol is D-arabinitol, L-arabinitol, erythritol, galactitol, inositol, mannitol, perseitol, ribitol, sorbitol, xylitol, glycerol or any combination of these.

25. A feed material, the feed material effective to enhance milk component production in a ruminant when the feed material is supplied to the ruminant, the feed material comprising:

a sugar alcohol, the sugar alcohol protected from significant alteration in the rumen of the ruminant; and

at least one additional ingredient.

26. The feed material of claim 19 wherein the sugar alcohol is D-arabinitol, L-arabinitol, erythritol, galactitol, inositol, mannitol, perseitol, ribitol, sorbitol, xylitol, glycerol or any combination of these.

27. The feed material of claim 19 wherein the feed material is effective to enhance the weight percent of true protein, the weight percent of fat, the weight percent of lactose, the weight percent of total solids, or any combination of these in milk produced by the ruminant when the feed material is supplied to the ruminant.

28. The method of claim 1 wherein the sugar alcohol is ruminally-protected.

29. The method of claim 1 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of true protein in milk produced by the ruminant.

30. The method of claim 1 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of lactose in milk produced by the ruminant.

31. The method of claim 1 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of fat in milk produced by the ruminant.
32. The method of claim 1 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of total solids in milk produced by the ruminant.
33. The method of claim 10 wherein the sugar alcohol is ruminally-protected.
34. The method of claim 10 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of true protein in milk produced by the ruminant.
35. The method of claim 10 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of lactose in milk produced by the ruminant.
36. The method of claim 10 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of fat in milk produced by the ruminant.
37. The method of claim 10 wherein enhancing milk component production comprises enhancing the weight percent of total solids in milk produced by the ruminant.
38. The method of claim 2 wherein protecting the sugar alcohol from significant alteration in the rumen of the ruminant allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.
39. The method of claim 2, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the

sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

40. The method of claim 2, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

41. The method of claim 11 wherein protecting the sugar alcohol from significant alteration in the rumen of the ruminant allows at least about 50 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

42. The method of claim 11, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 75 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

43. The method of claim 11, the method further comprising protecting the sugar alcohol from alteration in the rumen of the ruminant to a degree that allows at least about 90 weight percent of the sugar alcohol that is orally ingested by the ruminant to arrive unaltered, as sugar alcohol, in the abomasum of the ruminant after passing through the rumen of the ruminant.

44. A method of enhancing the weight percent of true protein in milk produced by a ruminant, the method comprising:

providing a feed that comprises a ruminally-protected sugar alcohol; and

supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant.

45. A method of enhancing the weight percent of lactose in milk produced by a ruminant, the method comprising:

providing a feed that comprises a ruminally-protected sugar alcohol; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant.

46. A method of enhancing the weight percent of fat in milk produced by a ruminant, the method comprising:

providing a feed that comprises a ruminally-protected sugar alcohol; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant.

47. A method of enhancing the weight percent of total solids in milk produced by a ruminant, the method comprising:

providing a feed that comprises a ruminally-protected sugar alcohol; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant.

48. A method of enhancing the weight percent of true protein, lactose, fat, total solids, or any combination of any of these in milk produced by a ruminant, the method comprising:

providing a feed that comprises a ruminally-protected sugar alcohol; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant.

49. A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:

providing a feed that comprises a ruminally-protected sugar alcohol; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol effective to
enhance the weight percent of true protein in milk produced by the ruminant.

50. A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed that comprises a ruminally-protected sugar alcohol; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol effective
enhance to the weight percent of lactose in milk produced by the ruminant.
51. A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed that comprises a ruminally-protected sugar alcohol; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol effective to
enhance the weight percent of fat in milk produced by the ruminant.
52. A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed that comprises a ruminally-protected sugar alcohol; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol effective to
enhance the weight percent of total solids in milk produced by the ruminant.
53. A method of feeding a ruminant, the method comprising:
providing a feed that comprises a ruminally-protected sugar alcohol; and
supplying the sugar alcohol to the abomasum of the ruminant, the sugar alcohol effective to
enhance the weight percent of true protein, lactose, fat, total solids, or any
combination of any of these in milk produced by the ruminant.

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action mailed on January 22, 2002. With this Response, no claims are canceled; no claims are amended; and no new claims are added. Claims 15-27 stand withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner as being drawn to a non-elected invention, and claims 5-7 and 12 stand withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner as being drawn to a non-elected species. Applicant continues to traverse the election requirement as to claims